

Pre-Board Examination I (2020-21)
Class XII - ENGLISH – Core (301)

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

- 1. This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. All questions are compulsory.*
- 2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.*
- 3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

Part A (40 Marks)

READING (20 marks)

(1x10 = 10)

1. Read the passage given below.

- India can really become a tourist's paradise on Earth as we have so much to offer to the visitors. No other country in the world possesses so much variety. The breath-taking beauty of the Himalayas, its valleys and rivers, the numerous wildlife sanctuaries dotted all over the country, our still unspoilt sea beaches, our great temples and caves and historical monuments, our music and dance, our festivals and national celebrations, would attract any tourist in the world. They are all our potential foreign exchange earners.
- If we wish to earn more from our tourists, we must build up more infrastructure. The Government of India has intensified efforts to build more hotels in the country. Those in the hotel business are allowed to have foreign collaborations. Our hotels must offer such facilities that foreigners love: these are 24-hour service, swimming pools, tennis courts, club houses, massage centres, indoor and outdoor restaurants, playgrounds for children, dance floor with live music in season and so on. These would make for an exciting tour.
- The Government is also providing new and better facilities. It would do us good if certain irritants connected with custom formalities could also be removed.
- But tourism is everybody's business as all benefit from it. Wealth flows from affluent countries to the less affluent. Within the country itself it moves from the developed areas to the less developed ones. It flows from the rich to the poor, thus producing a better distribution of wealth. Private agencies can do a lot to promote the tourist trade in this country. They can arrange group tours for foreigners on a large scale. Those selling goods to the tourists should not charge them higher rates. Even a humble taxi driver can do something for tourism, if he does not cheat a visitor.
- So, let us give the tourist the facilities he is used to in his own country. If he goes home irritated and unhappy, he will surely discourage others from visiting our country. We will lose a friend and also some foreign exchange. But if the tourist is satisfied with the facilities offered to him, what he tells his people back home will do publicity for us. Then others would also be tempted to come to our country when we say, "Welcome to India".

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven given below. (1 x 10 = 10)

- India can become a tourist's paradise
 - by flow of wealth from other countries

- (b) by its rivers, valleys and Himalayas
 (c) by building more hotels in the country
 (d) by welcoming foreigners to India
- ii. Better infrastructure will help in improving India's
 (a) Collaborations (b) Finances (c) Transport (d) Facilities
- iii. Pick the option that lists statements that are NOT TRUE according to the passage.
- The breath-taking beauty of the Himalayas would attract any tourist to India.
 - Taxi drivers do not cheat the visitors.
 - Better tourist facilities will make the tourists happy.
 - Government agencies can arrange group tours for foreigners to promote tourism.
- (a) 1 & 2 (b) 2 & 4 (c) 2 & 3 (d) 1 & 4
- iv. How is tourism everybody's business?
 (a) flow of wealth produces its better distribution among rich and poor
 (b) we wish to earn more from our tourists
 (c) because we say, "Welcome to India"
 (d) because India is a tourist's paradise
- v. Which word in para 1 means the same as many in number?
 (a) Variety (b) Numerous (c) Dotted (d) Potential
- vi. *Good facilities for tourists will tempt people to come to visit India.* Which word does not describe the underlined word?
 (a) Lure (b) Excite (c) Repel (d) Invite
- vii. *Wealth flows from affluent countries to the less affluent.* The statement shows
 (a) Reverse distribution of wealth (b) Proper distribution of wealth
 (c) Uneven distribution of wealth (d) Improper distribution of wealth
- viii. According to the passage, does any country in the world possess so much variety as India?
 (a) Yes (b) No (c) Perhaps (d) None of these
- ix. Which word from the passage is opposite in meaning to 'dissuaded'?
 (a) irritate (b) Tempted (c) Discourage (d) Publicity
- x. What will the tourists do if they go home irritated and unhappy?
 (a) Urge others from visiting our country
 (b) Long-awaited travel to visit our country
 (c) Dissuade others from visiting our country
 (d) They will only remain mute spectators
- xi. Which agencies can also play an instrumental role in promoting tourism?
 (a) Government agencies (b) Private agencies (c) Semi-government agencies (d) Non-government agencies

2. Read the passage given below.

(1x10 = 10)

Education facilitates learning by creating opportunities which help in acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits. Acquiring bookish knowledge is not the true essence of being educated. Education is much

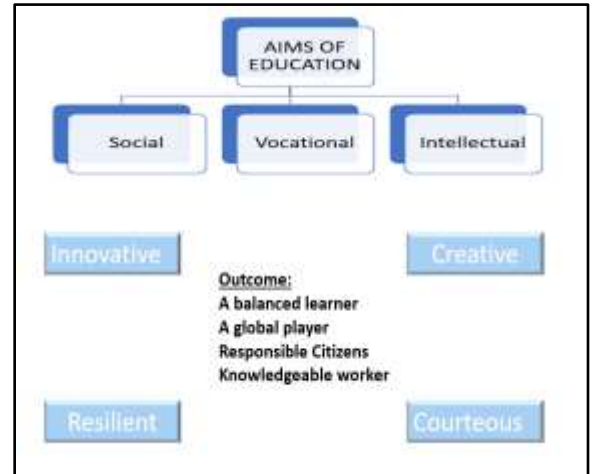
beyond achieving degrees. It is more of inculcating values – moral and social, developing a positive outlook and building great humans with great characters.

There are various aims of education - social, vocational and intellectual. Social aims of education emphasise more on the welfare of the society rather than of an individual. Society is the whole and each one of us is a part of the big whole. We must work towards the benefit of the society. It stresses on the welfare of the state and ensures that people possess virtues like co-operation, loyalty and sacrifice.

The vocational aims of education create an environment suitable to hone the skills of a learner so that one emerges as a better worker in the field one wants to excel into. They become better workers by acquiring all the required skills.

The intellectual aims of education make the learner confident so that he/she can lead a confident life. They aim at providing enough opportunities so that the innate intellectual capability of a learner can reach the optimum level. They provide the best environment for the intellect to grow and direct towards the right track.

Without education, humans will be wandering aimlessly groping into the dark and looking for some light to illuminate their paths to development.



On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven given below. (1x10 = 10)

- i. How important is education in one's life?
 - (a) No alternative to education
 - (b) No one's innate capabilities
 - (c) Illuminates a person's mind and thoughts
 - (d) All of the above
- ii. What is the main purpose of education?
 - (a) To earn qualification to secure good jobs
 - (b) For moral and character development of a person
 - (c) To attain knowledge
 - (d) To secure one's future
- iii. Which of the following is an example of 'Social Aims of Education'?
 - (a) To lead a productive, hence a respectable life, in the society, by earning livelihood
 - (b) To have confidence to lead an independent life
 - (c) To become a useful member of the society irrespective of socio-economic status
 - (d) To be able to earn handsome amount of money for oneself
- iv. Which of the following is an example of 'Vocational Aims of Education'?
 - (a) To lead a productive, hence a respectable life, in the society, by earning livelihood
 - (b) To have confidence to lead an independent life
 - (c) To become a useful member of the society irrespective of socio-economic status
 - (d) To be able to earn handsome amount of money for oneself
- v. Which of the following is an example of 'Intellectual Aims of Education'?

- (a) To lead a productive, hence a respectable life, in the society, by earning livelihood
(b) To have confidence to lead an independent life
(c) To become a useful member of the society irrespective of socio-economic status
(d) To be able to earn handsome amount of money for oneself
- vi. What do you understand by the expression 'a balanced learner'?
- (a) One who has knowledge about all the concepts taught during the learning phase
(b) One who could maintain balance between his studies and sports schedule
(c) One who is intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and physically balanced
(d) One who has a balanced personality
- vii. Who, in your point of view, can be a global player?
- (a) A learner who is competitive, resilient and possesses good communication skills
(b) One who can play various sports at the international level
(c) A learner who has the capacity to travel abroad often
(d) A learner who can adjust to local needs and requirements while travelling to different countries
- viii. The qualities of a responsible citizen are
- (a) To have a feeling of brotherhood with fellow citizens
(b) To have patriotic fervour on special days, like Independence Day
(c) To be ready to serve one's country, whenever required
(d) To favour one's own country while participating in political discussions
- ix. Who can be a 'knowledgeable worker'?
- (a) One who applies his acquired knowledge to practical use
(b) One who goes beyond just application of knowledge and uses it innovatively
(c) One who acquires knowledge, applies it creatively and always has a desire for more knowledge
(d) One who is satisfied with what he has learnt
- x. Which of the following options means the same as 'resilient'?
- (a) Flexible and adjustable
(b) Fix and rigid
(c) Hopeful and brave
(d) Strict and stern
- xi. Is there an age-limit to acquire education?
- (a) Yes, till the age of 25
(b) Until one loses interest to learn further
(c) Until other responsibilities knock one's door
(d) There's no age bar to learning

LITERATURE (20 marks)

3. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY TWO of the three given by answering the questions that follow. (4+4=8)

(A) *Then he stopped and leaned his head against the wall, and, without a word, he made a gesture to us with his hand -*

- i. What did the gesture indicate?
- End of the class
 - The students must make way for the elders
 - End of school
 - They may ask their queries now
- ii. What was the last thing the children studied before M Hamel asked the students to go?
- Writing practice
 - Participles
 - History of the saints
 - The babies chanted their ba, be, bi, bo, bu.
- iii. Which of these phrases do not describe M Hamel's condition at the end of the class?
- He was so overcome with emotion that he could not speak
 - He was deeply worried about an uncertain future after forty years of service
 - He was extremely pained to see the children having to give up their mother tongue when they barely knew how to read or write
 - He lost everything at one go – his job, his home and his country
- iv. What, according to you, would Little Franz be feeling at this moment?
- Proud and full of respect for M Hamel
 - Sorry for not taking his studies seriously
 - Sorry for M Hamel having to leave
 - Wanting to laugh and cry at the same moment
- (B) Now the peasant saw that he had rights and defenders. He learned courage.**
- i. How had the peasants learned courage?
- By showing their open support to Gandhi outside the courthouse.
 - By refusing to give the lumpsum amount even when they were maltreated
 - They had won a symbolic battle even though they could not get a complete refund
 - When they saw all the lawyers willing to help Gandhi win the case against the British landlords.
- ii. What was the attitude of the peasants prior to this?
- They did not raise their voice when their lands were taken away by deceit by the British landlords
 - They were too scared to give evidence against the British planters in court
 - They dare not question the lawyers who were taking a huge fee but not helping them win their cases in court
 - They gave in when the British planters demanded a lump sum to relieve them of the indigo rent.
- iii. Which of these was not a defender of the peasants?
- Lawyers
 - Gandhi
 - Edward Gait
 - None of the above
- iv. What happened after this incident?
- The British planters started ill treating the poor peasants for defying them.
 - Gandhi launched the Home Rule movement at Champaran.
 - The British planters abandoned their estates and Indigo Sharecropping disappeared.
 - Gandhi called volunteers from all over India to set up schools and clinics at Champaran.

(C) *He left the General's presence then and went home, thinking over the plan. in this way, the whole thing would be taken out of his hands. He would tell Hana nothing.*

- i. What is the plan Sadao made with the General?
 - a. To leave the partitions of the enemy soldier's room open so that the General's assassins could quietly kill him that night and dispose off the body
 - b. To make the enemy soldier escape by sending him to a nearby island with instructions to wait for a Korean fishing boat
 - c. To make the enemy soldier escape by sending him to a nearby island with instructions to wait for a Korean fishing boat
 - d. By letting the assassins come to the house quietly and arrest the enemy soldier
- ii. What, do you think, is Sadao thinking about this arrangement while going back to the house?
 - a. He thought it was for the best
 - b. He was uncomfortable at the idea of assassins in the house
 - c. He was glad that the matter had been amicably resolved
 - d. He felt disturbed to have conspired against the very man whose life he saved.
- iii. Why does he not want to share his plan with Hana?
 - a. he thought that a murder in the house would unnerve her
 - b. Sadao wanted to give her a surprise by having the servants back in the house, restoring normalcy.
 - c. Hana would faint at the thought of Tom being killed, just as she did when she had to help Sadao give him chloroform
- iv. How did having 'the whole thing taken out of his hands' please Sadao?
 - a. It meant that now the enemy soldier would not be tortured
 - b. He did not have to make the difficult decision to hand him over to the police
 - c. He was glad that the servants would come back and Hana would not have to be anxious on account of the enemy soldier
 - d. All of the above

4. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. (1 x 4 =4)

(A) *For lives that slyly turn in their cramped holes
From fog to endless night?*

- i. Whose lives turn 'slyly'?
 - a. Governor, inspector, visitor
 - b. Children of the elementary school in the slum
 - c. People living in the slum
 - d. People who made donations to the elementary school
- ii. 'Fog to endless night' refers to _____
 - a. Cold, foggy nights in winter
 - b. Lack of sunlight because of the lead sky
 - c. From a bleak, uncertain future to hopeless despair

- d. When the hazy, unclear future turns out to be a dark, gloomy night
- iii. Why is the change described as 'sly'?
- It happens so covertly that it goes unnoticed.
 - It comes upon them suddenly.
 - It is not a desirable change.
 - There is a cunning involved by those in powerful positions to ensure that they remain in perpetual poverty.
- iv. Give an example from the poem to show that, with time, the lives of these people turn for the worse.
- Breaking the windows till they reach the town
 - being tempted to steal
 - Wearing skins peeped through by bones
 - wanting to play with squirrels instead of studying

OR

(B) *What I want should not be confused with total inactivity*
I want no truck with death

- i. What does the poet want in these lines?
- To keep quiet and still, and not engage in restless and destructive activity
 - To introspect and bring about a qualitative change in our lives
 - To have no truck with death
 - To enjoy the exotic moment and put an end to war with no survivors
- ii. How is it possible to get confused between total inactivity and what the poet wants?
- Both states demand introspection
 - Both states necessitate learning a lesson from the earth
 - Both are physically passive states
 - Both have nothing to do with death
- iii. Why does the poet distance himself from total inactivity?
- Total inactivity involves green wars and fishermen harming whales
 - Total inactivity is in complete contrast to what the poet wants because it means death
 - By being totally inactive, one cannot learn a lesson from the earth
 - All of the above
- iv. The literary device in '*I want no truck with death*' is _____
- Hyperbole
 - Euphemism
 - Juxtaposition
 - None of the above

5. Attempt ANY EIGHT questions from the ten given below. (1 x 8 = 8)

- i. '*The steel canister seems heavier than the plastic bag he would carry so lightly over his shoulders.*' The literary device used in these lines is _____.
- Transferred epithet
 - Hyperbole
 - Metaphor
 - Oxymoron

- ii.** Give an example from the text to show that Mukesh's dream of being a motor mechanic is only a mirage.
- There are hardly any cars in Firozabad.
 - Every home in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles, as nobody dares to think differently.
 - When people try to do something different, they are beaten up by the police and put in jail.
- iii.** Which of these show that the mindset of the people of Firozabad plays a big role in the perpetuation of their dismal poverty?
- They did not know that the law, if enforced, could get Mukesh and the 20,000 children employed in glass factories out of the dingy furnaces.
 - The people dare not form cooperatives because they have lost the ability to dream.
 - There is no leader among them, who could guide them.
 - All of the above
- iv.** What brings the poet's thoughts back to her mother when she looks back at her after the security check?
- Her ashen face, like that of a corpse
 - Her wan, pale face, like a late winter's moon
 - The young trees sprinting
 - Merry children spilling out of their homes
- v.** Which of these statements is the odd one out?
- A mass of yellow water held me with fear
 - I was paralysed under water - stiff, rigid
 - The curtain of life fell
 - I tried to call for help, to call for mother
- vi.** As a lawyer, how was Gandhi's approach to the sharecroppers' case different from that of other lawyers who represented their cases in court?
- Unlike the other lawyers, he did not charge a huge fee from the peasants
 - Instead of individual cases, he collected their documents and made a collective case of fraud to be put across for the Lieutenant Governor's consideration
 - Unlike the lawyers, who wanted to go back home if Gandhi was arrested, he was a complete stranger and was willing to be arrested for their cause.
 - He did not file the case in a lawcourt but demanded an inquiry into the sharecropper's case.
- vii.** 'Everything's the same but everything is different.' In the given context of the chapter, what does this sentence mean?
- There is a difference between sameness and compatibility.
 - A different perspective may suddenly reveal itself in a thing that appears to be ordinary.
 - A different way of seeing may change our perception of a thing completely.
 - If you look at a thing closely, you may see minute differences in things that appear similar.
- viii.** Which of these is an example of green wars?
- Learning a lesson from the earth
 - Fishermen harming whales
 - Speaking in many languages

- d. Victory without survivors
- ix. 'Grandeur of the dooms we have imagined for the mighty dead' refer to _____
- a. Grand tombs and mausoleums b. Lovely tales we have heard or read
- c. Memorials in memory of the martyrs d. Mighty palaces of great kings and such monuments
- x. What change will come about in the elementary school classroom after the intervention of the Governor, inspector and visitor?
- a. The dim class with sour cream walls expands to include green fields and golden sands.
- b. The teacher becomes a facilitator who shows the way.
- c. History will remember the brilliant achievements of these children.
- d. All of the above

PART B (40 marks)

WRITING

(16 marks)

6. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following.

(1 x 3 = 3)

(A) You are Sameera/Sameer the owner of *Nirav Exports*, a store for women's clothes. You are looking for an interior designer to design the interiors of the store. Draft a suitable advertisement for the same, in about 50 words to be published in the classified columns of a *National Daily*.

OR

(B) Write a notice for your residential welfare society notice board, informing the residents about the details of a COVID testing camp to be set up on Sunday in your neighbourhood. You are Piya/ Piyush of A-34, Satara Apartments, New Delhi. (50 words)

7. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following.

(1 x 3 = 3)

(A) Your friend's father has recently bought a new farmhouse in Chattarpur. He/She has invited you and a group of close college friends, whom you haven't met for 8 years, for a casual get together. Draft a reply to the invitation expressing your inability to attend the party. (50 words)

OR

(B) To create awareness among students about online safety, your school is planning to host a Webinar on Gaming and Online Safety next week. It will be conducted on zoom with live streaming on Facebook. Make an attractive e-invite for all students and their parents. (3)

8. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following.

(1 x 5 = 5)

(A) You came across an article in the newspaper about how a group of students got together to show their gratitude to the police and sanitation workers who worked tirelessly during the lockdown by providing them with foodstuffs like fruit, biscuits, tetra packs of juice and milk, packaged water and other things like masks and sanitizers. They approached NGOs, did fundraisers and collected donations. There are countless such stories about people helping each other at a time like this.

Write a letter to the editor of a national daily sharing one such story, where you took the initiative to help those in need during the lockdown. You are Vedanshi/Vedant, of 15 A, Petals Society, Bengaluru. (120-150 words)

OR

- (B) You are Aami/ Ajoy Sarkar of 83, Model Town, Guwahati, Assam. You are a sports enthusiast. Rangshala School, Guwahati, has advertised the requirement of a Sports teacher, in the local newspaper. You are excited and decide to apply for the post. Write a letter in 120-150 words, responding to the given advertisement, submitting your candidature with a detailed bio-data.

9. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following. (1 x 5 = 5)

- (A) *You were pained to read about incidents of cruelty against animals in the newspapers. One in particular, about feeding an elephant a pineapple with explosives concealed in it, is not only shocking but also reveals a sick mentality.*

Write an article on changing mindsets towards animals and suggest ways in which we can enforce zero tolerance for animal cruelty. You are Dhiranu / Drishti.

OR

- (B) *One day, while you were stuck in a traffic jam, you saw an elderly person at the zebra crossing suddenly collapse in the middle of the road. It was some time before an ambulance arrived but you quickly provided him first aid. The paramedic appreciated your efforts and you felt happy that you helped save someone's life.*

Write a report of the above-mentioned incident for your school magazine in about 120-150 words.

LITERATURE

(24 marks)

10. Attempt **ANY FIVE** out of the six questions given below, in 30-40 words each. (2x5=10)

- i. How did the incident at the YMCA pool affect William Douglas later in his life?
Fear - deeply ingrained - constant aversion to water - petrified him – ruined all his enjoyment of water sports adventure activities - remained terribly scared – finally developed a strong desire to overcome his fear of water
- ii. What, according to you, is the reason that drove the British landlords to act in this desperate fashion when they heard that Germany had manufactured synthetic indigo?
When synthetic indigo was developed by Germany – Natural Indigo was no more profitable to landlords - did not want to grow it any more - prices had fallen - wanted compensation from the peasants for not growing Indigo on the land for releasing them from the Indigo agreement
- iii. Gandhi read a statement in court that he was involved in a 'conflict of duties'. Explain the 'conflict of duties' that Gandhiji told the court he was involved in.
On the one hand he did not want to set a bad example as a lawbreaker and on the other hand to render the humanitarian and national service for which he had come. He disregarded the order to leave Champaran not due to lack of respect for lawful authority but because of the higher moral and ethical concern.

iv. In the poem 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum', what does the poet want for the children of the slum? How can their lives change?

Their lives to be changed. – to be out of circumstances of poverty -to live in healthier, hygienic and beautiful natural environment - wants their future to be bright and full of hope.

their lives can only be changed if governor, teacher, inspector, visitor, and rich people do more to help them - mere donations will not solve their problems of poverty, illiteracy, and backwardness.

v. What is the exotic moment Pablo Neruda wishes for?

- to have total state of inactivity – without any rush and hurry that cause trouble and stress in life - without noise of machines creating disturbance when everything is at rest – will be an exotic moment with unusual feeling in a sudden strangeness – all will feel united – no selfishness

vi. How does beauty sustain our life on earth?

objects of beauty around us take away the suffering from our sorrowful hearts – they remove the pall of gloom from our mind and spirit.

11. Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below in 30-40 words each. (2 x2=4)

i. What is common between Charley and Sam? How do you know?

Both want a life away from the troubles of everyday lives - When Sam disappeared all of a sudden and no one knew where he was, Charley suspected he had gone to Galesburg as Sam had grown up in a city and liked a peaceful place Galesburg - Charley found an envelope mailed to Sam by his grandfather from his home in Galesburg and so it confirmed that Sam was indeed in Galesburg.

ii. Why did the General spare the American soldier?

The General spared the American soldier because he was a selfish man. He thought of nothing but his own life. He needed Sadao for his operation and he forgot about his promise in his pain. iii.

What qualities of Mr. Lamb attracted Derry to him?

12. Attempt ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words. (1 x 5 = 5)

(A) How did Douglas try to save himself from drowning in the YMCA pool?

bully - boy of about eighteen - threw Douglas into deep water – Douglas was frightened a plan - hit the bottom - make a big jump, come to the surface, lie flat on it, and paddle to the edge of the pool - his jump couldn't make him reach the surface - great force was pulling him down – second time - remembered his strategy: he would spring from the bottom of the pool and come like a cork to the surface. In the midst of stark terror, he again jumped as he hit the bottom. But the jump made no difference - looked for ropes, ladders and water wings – nothing - tried to scream but couldn't. Thus he very courageously tried to save himself from drowning. But he didn't succeed.

OR

(B) How does the story, 'The Rattrap' highlight the importance of community over isolation? Support your rationale with textual evidence.

The Rattrap story is about a person who is a sales guy by profession. However he does not keep good expectations from the people and is of the idea that there is no usage of working together and everybody lives for

his own benefits. In the story, he meets a lady who deals with her with great generosity and shifts his belief from isolated world to community. Thus, the generosity and kindness of lady changed his pessimistic approach

13. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following questions in 120-150 words. (1 x 5 = 5)

(A) In the chapter 'On the face of it' do you think Derry will retreat into his shell after he lost his only chance of having a friend? Is his change of perspective more permanent? Give a reasoned answer. (120-150 words) (5 Marks)

OR

(B) Do you think Jack showed an affinity with Roger Skunk? Explain.